

W E S T V I R G I N I A

Hunting & Trapping

R E G U L A T I O N S S U M M A R Y

July 2003 - June 2004



West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

From the Director -----



It is always a pleasure to be the bearer of good news and I've got some GREAT news to share. During the spring gobbler hunting season, only one hunter was injured – and that was non-fatal. Even more encouraging, that instance was only the second hunting incident this year. The other incident involved a rabbit hunter in January. This means that we are off to the safest hunting year ever. Records for the past 10 years indicate an average of 9.3 incidents during the January through May time period.

I want to thank our DNR Law Enforcement personnel and their team of dedicated hunter education volunteers who donate their time to make hunting a safer sport. And I'd like to thank you, the hunter, for your conscious efforts to make safety a priority when you're afield. It appears that years of hunter safety education are paying off big dividends — in saving people's lives.

The only bad news is that the hunter who was shot by another turkey hunter was mistaken for game. Although I am aware of the excitement and adrenaline flow just before you shoot, there is still no excuse for shooting another person because you think they are a wild animal. A cardinal rule of hunting is to make positive identification of your target before pulling the trigger.

Congratulations to all involved in this year's safety record. Next year, let's shoot for zero incidents through the spring gobbler season. In the meantime, let's make this fall the safest deer season ever.

Sincerely,

Ed Hamrick, Director
Division of Natural Resources

District Offices

Main Office - Charleston, WV 25305

State Capitol Complex, Building 3

Wildlife Management - Paul Johansen (304) 558-2771

Law Enforcement - Lt. Col. Bill Daniel (304) 558-2784

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1304 Goose Run Road

(304) 367-2720

Wildlife Management - Gary Foster

Law Enforcement - Capt. Kaven Ransom

District II - Romney, WV 26757

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(304) 822-3551

Wildlife Management - Gary Strawn

Law Enforcement - Capt. B.K. Chambers

District III

WV State Wildlife Center

P.O. Box 38 • French Creek, WV 26218

Wildlife Management - Ray Knotts (304) 924-6211

Law Enforcement - Capt. Mike Pizzino (304) 637-0245

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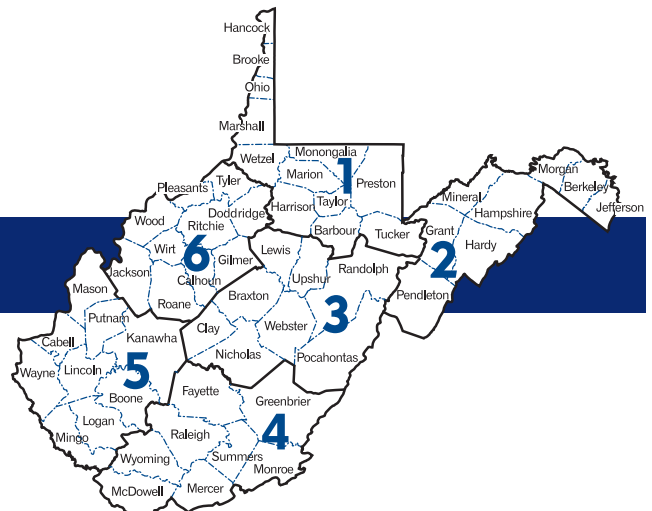
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District V

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District VI - Parkersburg, WV 26101

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Wildlife Management - J. R. Hill

Law Enforcement - Capt. Tom Wasmer

Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241

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Wildlife Management - Dick Hall (304) 637-0245

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Summary of Changes for 2003 - 2004

1. Effective January 1, 2003, nonresident hunters ages 8 thru 14 may purchase a \$15.00 Class XXJ junior sportsman's hunting and trapping license. This license must be accompanied by a \$10.00 nonresident Class CS/LE (see page 30).
2. There will be a six (6) day early bear season with dogs, November 3 - 8, 2003, and a six (6) day bear gun season without dogs, November 24 - 29, 2003, in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Nicholas and Raleigh counties (see page 27).
3. A season has been established for sport hunting of crows as required by federal regulations, September 1 - December 31, 2003 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday only) and January 1 - February 28, 2004 (all days of the week are legal except in counties with no Sunday hunting). Nuisance/depredating crows may still be killed at any time year-round (see page 2).
4. There will be a continuous year-round pigeon season starting September 1, 2003 (see page 2).
5. The raccoon hunting season bag limit has been changed to four (4) per night, and the season limit has been eliminated (see page 2).
6. The wild boar gun season has been changed to one week, October 27 - November 1, 2003. Hunters must have a Class P license, but do not need to apply for a license in advance (see page 29).
7. Hunters may take two antlerless deer per day on private land only during the December 8 -13, 2003 portion of the antlerless season, providing that the first antlerless deer taken is checked at an official game checking station before pursuing a second antlerless deer (see page 16).
8. Hunters must carry a valid driver's license or photo identification card from their state of residence along with hunting license and hunter safety card (if applicable) while hunting, except for children under 15 years of age.
9. In Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties the archery bag limit has been increased to two (2) deer, provided one (1) deer is an antlerless deer (see page 11).

2003 - 2004 Season Dates and Limits

Species	Opening Date	Closing Date	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Season Limit
*Wild Boar (<i>Gun</i>)	October 27	November 1	1	1	1
*Wild Boar (<i>Archery</i>)	October 18	December 31			
*Deer (<i>Bucks Only</i>)	November 24	December 6	1	2	2
*Deer (<i>Archery</i>)	October 18	December 31	1	3	3
*Deer (<i>Antlerless</i>)	November 24***	December 13	1 **	4	4
Split Season	December 24	December 27			
*Deer (<i>Muzzleloading</i>)	December 15	December 20	1	2	2
*Deer (<i>Youth/Class Q Hunt-Antlerless</i>)	November 1	November 1	1	1	1
Split Season	December 22	December 23	1	2	2
*Bear (<i>Archery</i>)	October 18	November 22			
*Bear (<i>Gun - Selected Counties</i>)	December 8	December 31			
*Bear (<i>Gun - Selected Counties</i>)	November 3	November 8	1	1	1
See pages 25 - 28	November 24	November 29			
	December 8	December 13			
*Turkey, Fall (<i>Selected Counties</i>)	October 25	November 22	1	1	1
(<i>Selected Counties</i>)	October 25	November 1			
*Turkey (<i>Spring 2004 - Bearded Only</i>)	April 26	May 22	1	2	2
Squirrel (<i>Gray, Black, Albino and Fox</i>)	October 11	January 31	6	24	None
Squirrel (<i>Youth Hunt - see page 19</i>)	October 4	October 4	6	6	6
Ruffed Grouse	October 18	February 28	4	16	None
Bobwhite Quail	November 1	January 3	3	9	None
Cottontail Rabbit	November 1	February 28	5	20	None
Snowshoe or Varying Hare	November 1	February 28	2	8	None
Ring-necked Pheasant	November 1	January 3	2	2	None
(<i>Cock birds only</i>)					
Hillcrest WMA	November 8	December 6	1	1	None
Raccoon (<i>Hunting</i>)	October 18	February 28	4		
The bag limit during any 11-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. is four (4) raccoons for each person or groups of persons as a party.				See definition of possession limit on page 7.	None
Raccoon (<i>Trapping</i>)	November 1	February 28	None		
Red Fox, Gray Fox (<i>Hunting and Trapping</i>)	November 1	February 28	None	None	None
*Bobcat (<i>Hunting and Trapping</i>)	November 1	February 28	2	2	2
Mink, Muskrat (<i>Trapping</i>)	November 1	February 28	None	None	None
*Fisher (<i>Trapping</i>)	November 1	January 31	1	1	1
*Beaver (<i>Trapping</i>)	November 1	March 31	None	None	None
Crow (<i>Thursday, Friday Saturday only</i>)	September 1	December 31			
Nuisance crows - crows committing depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, home gardens, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated so as to constitute a health hazard and or other nuisance may be killed at any time.					
Crow	January 1	February 28	None	None	None
Skunk, Opossum, Woodchuck, Weasel, Coyote, English Sparrow, European Starling and Pigeon****	Continuous Open Season		None	None	None
Skunk, opossum, coyote, and weasel (<i>Trapping</i>)	November 1	February 28			
Mountain Lion, Elk, Otter, Song and Insectivorous Birds, Hawks, Owls, Falcons and Eagles	No Open Season		These species are totally protected.		
Geese, Ducks, Mourning Doves, Gallinules, Rails, Woodcock, Common Snipe	Harvest Information Program (HIP) card required. See DNR Migratory Bird Hunting regulations available in September.				

*Must be checked at an official checking station

**See charts on pages 10 - 12

***December 7 Closed

****Effective September 1, 2003

Hunting - General Regulations

Prohibitions

It is illegal to:

- hunt in state parks, in safety zones in state forests or wildlife management areas, and in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- shoot, hunt or trap upon the fenced or posted grounds or lands of another person without having in your possession written permission from the landowner.
- have a loaded firearm or a firearm with an attached magazine from which all shells have not been removed in or on any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments. You can have a loaded clip or magazine in the vehicle as long as it is not in or attached to the firearm. Exception for concealed weapons permit holders (see page 5).
- carry an uncased or loaded firearm in the woods, except during open firearms hunting seasons. It is legal to hunt unprotected species of wild animals, wild birds and migratory game birds during the open season in fields, waters and marshes.
- hunt with a fully automatic firearm.
- hunt anything except deer in counties having a bucks-only season during the first three (3) days of this season. It **is** legal to hunt waterfowl during this period on lakes, rivers, and waterways during the open waterfowl season and to bear hunt in specified counties.
- hunt deer, bear or boar between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- shoot at a deer or boar while it is in water.
- be afield with a gun and bow, or with a gun and any arrows, except for concealed weapons permit holders (see page 5).
- carry an uncased gun in or on a vehicle between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. E.S.T. from October 1 - June 30; and between 8:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. E.S.T. from July 1 - September 30.
- carry an uncased or loaded gun after 5 a.m. on Sunday in counties which prohibit Sunday hunting except at a regularly-used firearm range, or except as provided in the trapping regulations.
- shoot a firearm within 400 feet of a school or church, or within 500 feet of a dwelling, or on or near a park or other place where persons are gathered for pleasure.
- hunt while under the influence of alcohol.
- for anyone under the age of 15 to hunt on public land or the lands of another unless accompanied by a licensed adult who remains near enough to render advice and assistance.
- hunt or fish with a modified bow without a special permit issued by the Director.
- get out of a motor vehicle along a public road and shoot a bow or firearm unless you are at least 25 yards from the vehicle.
- shoot an animal unless it is plainly visible.
- use or take advantage of artificial light in hunting, locating, attracting, or trapping wild birds or wild animals while in possession or control of any firearm, whether cased or uncased, bow, arrow, or other implement suitable for taking, killing or trapping a wild bird or animal. However, lights ordinarily carried on the person may be used for taking raccoon, skunk and opossum. No person shall be guilty merely because he uses an artificial light to look for, at, or attract a wild bird or animal, unless he has in his possession a firearm, whether cased or uncased, bow, arrow, or other implement suitable for taking, killing or trapping a wild bird or animal, or unless the artificial light (other than the headlamps of a vehicle or other land conveyance) is attached to, a part of, or used from a vehicle or other land conveyance.
- smoke wildlife from its den or place of refuge except as provided by law or regulation.
- hunt with a crossbow or have a crossbow afield.
- catch or kill, or attempt to do so by seine, net, bait, trap, deadfall, snare, or like device, any bear, game bird, protected bird or mammal, or wild boar.
- bait or feed bear.
- hunt or shoot at wild animals or birds from an airborne conveyance, from a vehicle or other land conveyance, from a motor-driven water conveyance, or from or across a public road, unless specifically authorized to do so by law or regulation. You may shoot from a motorized watercraft if the motor has been completely shut off and its progress from the motor has ceased.
- use any poisons, chemicals or explosives in taking any furbearing animal, game animal, game bird or protected song and insectivorous bird, provided that groundhogs may be controlled on private land by landowners, their resident children or resident parents, or a resident tenant from April 1 through September 30.
- use shot larger than #4 or solid ball ammunition, except for .22 caliber or smaller rimfire during the bucks-only deer season in the four (4) counties closed to the bucks-only season.
- hunt between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise with any firearm larger than .22 caliber rimfire, a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot shells larger than No. 4 shot.

Trapping Regulations-----

No traps shall be set before 8 a.m. on the first day of the season or either set or left set after 12 noon on the last day of the season.

All traps **MUST** be checked and tended daily.

Traps previously and legally set may be tended after 5 a.m. on Sunday, if the person so doing shall have no firearm greater than .22 caliber rimfire or a bow in his possession.

Nonresidents must possess valid Class E or XXJ, and CS/LE licenses to trap.

Traps used for taking wildlife shall be marked with a durable plate or tag attached to the trap, trap chain or set bearing the owner's name and address.

A person who unintentionally traps and kills more than the season bag limit shall deliver excess animals to a conservation officer within 24 hours.

Trappers shall present beaver, bobcat and fisher pelts to a game checking station or DNR representative within 30 days after the close of the respective trapping season. A tag provided by the DNR shall be attached and remain attached to each beaver, bobcat and fisher pelt until it has been sold, tanned or mounted.

Foot snares are legal when the snare loop:

- (a) does not exceed 6½ inches in diameter
- (b) is at ground level
- (c) is horizontal to ground level

Terrestrial body-gripping snares must have a relaxing-type lock system with a breaking point of 350 pounds or less or a stop with a minimum loop diameter of at least 2½ inches. Set snares shall not have a loop diameter average greater than 15 inches. All terrestrial body-gripping snares must be anchored at the trap site.

A person may not ship or transport any raw furs, pelts, or skins of wild furbearers outside of the state unless such shipment has a special shipping tag visibly attached. Shipping tags must be obtained from the DNR. One part shall be attached to the outside of the package or container and the other part completed and returned to the DNR within 24 hours of shipping furs out of state.

The dealer or buyer of raw furs, pelts, or skins of furbearers in this state shall submit to the Director a completed fur dealer transaction report as provided by the Director.

It is illegal to:

- have in possession an untagged beaver, bobcat, or fisher pelt or parts thereof, after 30 days following the close of the respective season.
- set deadfalls for taking wildlife.
- set traps with an open jaw spread of more than 6½ inches except as underwater sets for beaver.
- set traps or trapping devices in human foot trails or livestock paths.
- set conibear or mohawk type traps for terrestrial trapping, but they may be used in water sets.
- set spring pole snares.
- use exposed animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof to bait an animal to a trap set that is within 50 feet of the carcass. Animal or bird carcasses or parts thereof that are completely covered and concealed from sight may be used as a lure at the immediate trap site.
- trap without written permission of a landowner.
- trap within 15 feet of the waterline on the structure of any beaver house or burrow.
- disturb or destroy dams, houses or burrows of beavers while beaver trapping.
- take beaver, fisher, mink, or muskrat by any means other than by trap.
- use steel jaw traps with any teeth on or attached to them.
- set a trap, trapset or snare upon a tree, post or other natural or man-made object at any point more than three (3) linear feet from the surface of the earth (whether such surface is water, soil or rock) measured at right angle from the surface to the trap or trapset. Traps may be set on natural earthen mounds, such as ant hills or muskrat houses, constructed without human assistance.
- set traps other than water sets in March.
- trap in state parks, in safety zones in state forests and wildlife management areas, in Harpers Ferry NHP and on National Park Service land within the New River Gorge NR.

Archery Regulations -----

Nonresident bow hunters must possess a Class EE license, and Class CS/LE and DS stamps to hunt bear.

For bow fishing, a resident is required to have a fishing license; a nonresident is required to have a Class E or XXJ license, and a Class CS/LE stamp.

A bow may be substituted for a firearm during any season for which firearms are legal except during muzzleloading firearms deer seasons.

It is illegal to:

- have a gun and bow afield together, except that persons who have a concealed weapons permit may carry a concealed handgun for *self defense only*.
- hunt with a crossbow.
- hunt turkey, bear, deer or boar with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 of an inch in width.
- use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.
- have a bow in the woods during closed seasons on game animals and non-migratory game birds.
- use dogs while bow hunting for black bear except during the firearms season (exception is only for counties where dogs are legal).
- hunt with a locking device capable of holding a bow at full draw, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- bowhunt on state parks and wildlife refuges, Harpers Ferry NHP, and safety zones on state forests and wildlife management areas. All wildlife refuges are appropriately posted.

Mandatory Hunter Education Requirement -----

No hunting license may be issued to a person born on or after January 1, 1975 unless the person presents to the license agent a certificate of satisfactory completion of a Hunter Education Course approved by the Hunter Education Association or the Director. Persons who purchase a lifetime hunting license before their 15th birthday must complete a certified hunter education course before using the license.

Hunter Education Classes Information:

1-800-243-9968 or
www.dnr.state.wv.us

(Click on law enforcement.)

Dog Training -----

Persons training dogs shall not have a firearm or other implement for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds. Persons participating in the training of dogs must have a hunting license.

Residents may train dogs and hold field trials on wild animals and birds, except deer and wild turkeys, on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time.

Nonresidents may train dogs only during the legal small game hunting season.

Tagging and Transporting ----

Refer to deer, bear, wild turkey, boar and trapping sections for specific tagging and transporting requirements.

No persons may transport or possess wildlife **killed by another hunter**, unless the wildlife or parts thereof is accompanied by a paper tag filled out legibly bearing the signature, address, date of kill, hunting license number (if required) and the official game checking tag number (if required) of the hunter who killed the wildlife. The tag shall also specify the species and quantity of wildlife.

Pistol Laws and Regulations -

Individuals who possess a valid concealed carry permit may carry a concealed handgun while afield hunting, hiking, camping, fishing or in or on a motor vehicle for purposes of *self defense only*.

Only persons 21 years old or older are eligible for a Class A-1 license.

Only pistols having a barrel at least 4 inches in length are legal for hunting.

While hunting, the licensee shall carry the pistol outside his outer clothing, in an unconcealed and easily visible place.

A pistol may be used only during established hunting seasons. Only single-shot muzzleloading pistols are legal for deer during the muzzleloader season.

It is legal to hunt groundhogs in open fields with a pistol.

It is illegal to:

- take migratory game birds with a pistol.
- hunt between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise with a pistol larger than .22 caliber rimfire.
- hunt bear, deer, or wild boar with a pistol using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- hunt bear, deer, or wild boar with a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.

When Licenses or Permits are not Required -----

- a) Resident landowners or their resident children or their resident parents or resident tenants of such land, may hunt or trap on their own land without a license during open seasons (see definition of resident landowner privileges on page 7).
- b) Residents honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces receiving total permanent service connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of a motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, may hunt or trap without a license during open seasons. Such individuals shall carry on their person an identification card issued by the Director. Additional licenses required to hunt: Class P; Class N; Class RG or RB; Class A-1.
- c) Ohio residents who carry valid Ohio hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on the Ohio River and its embayments or tributaries to points identified by the Director or from the West Virginia banks of said river without obtaining West Virginia licenses, and West Virginia residents who carry valid West Virginia hunting licenses may hunt waterfowl on Ohio River embayments or tributaries to designated points in Ohio or from the river's banks in Ohio without obtaining Ohio licenses.

Ohio hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting or fishing from Ohio banks or in Ohio embayment areas. West Virginia hunting laws apply to residents of Ohio and West Virginia while hunting on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks and embayment areas.

- d) Residents 65 years of age or older do not need a license to hunt or trap, but shall carry a WV driver's license or WV photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles (see page 30). Residents who have not reached their 15th birthday may hunt without a license but they must be accompanied by a licensed adult (exceptions, see page 30).
- e) West Virginia residents on active duty in the U.S. armed forces while on military leave, may hunt or trap in season without obtaining a license. Leave papers shall be carried while hunting or trapping.
- f) Persons participating in field trials permitted by the Director shall not be required to have a hunting license.
- g) Persons under 16 years of age do not need a state or federal migratory waterfowl stamp.

Point System for Hunting Violations -----

Persons found guilty of negligent shooting of humans or livestock will have their hunting licenses revoked for five years.

For bear hunting violation penalties see page 25.

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges suspended for one (1) year.

Points are assigned for other hunting violations:

- 10 points** use of spotlight with firearms or other implement.
- 6 points** illegal possession or sale of wildlife or illegally killing deer, boar, or turkey.
- 6 points** hunting from a motor vehicle.
- 4 points** all other hunting violations.

When a violator accumulates 10 points, his/her license(s) will be revoked for a period of two (2) years.

Points will be removed on the second anniversary or upon restoration of the license(s).



Sunday Hunting -----

In any county where Sunday hunting *has not* been prohibited by local election, Sunday hunting is legal on private land only with written permission of the landowner. Hunting is prohibited on any Sunday preceding the Monday opening of a big game season (deer, turkey, boar or bear). Check with your county DNR officer or county clerk to see if Sunday hunting is legal in your county.

Wildlife Management Areas and State Forests -----

Rules and regulations governing hunting and trapping on state owned and leased lands are the same as on adjacent private lands except as follows:

- a) Trapping permit, available from District Wildlife Biologist, required on all areas.
- b) McClintic, Hillcrest and Green Bottom WMAs - Hunting only in accordance with special rules established for the area.
- c) WMAs and state forests with camping areas require a permit and fee. (See regulations posted at each area.)
- d) Camping is lawful ONLY on designated areas.
- e) All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) means any motor vehicle designed for off-road use not subject to the vehicle registration requirements of Chapter 17A of the West Virginia Code.
- f) Use of ATVs and snowmobiles is prohibited except where permitted by posted signs on designated roads and trails.
- g) Driving a vehicle, ATV, or snowmobile so as to harass or chase wildlife is prohibited.
- h) Maximum speed limit for vehicles on WMAs and state forests is 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. All traffic signs and directions must be observed.
- i) Driving a vehicle in a manner which creates a nuisance to other persons by repetitive or continuous cruising is prohibited.
- j) Class Q hunting facilities are available on some WMAs. Contact the District Wildlife Biologist for more information.
- k) Only portable tree stands may be used on public lands.

Regulations Meeting Schedule -----

March 22, 2004

Charleston • North Bend State Park • Summersville

March 23, 2004

Franklin • Glen Dale • Huntington • Elkins
Pipestem Resort State Park • Spencer

March 24, 2004

Fairmont • Martinsburg • Parkersburg • Lewisburg

March 25, 2004

Logan • Moorefield • Twin Falls Resort State Park

Definitions of Terms Used

Possession limit - game which is in any way under the hunter's control. The daily bag limit for raccoon may be possessed for each day the season is open.

Example: the total of all game in a car, truck, home freezer, commercial food locker, or any other storage method or place.

Protected - no open season. Hunting at any time shall be illegal for protected wildlife.

Resident - a U.S. citizen who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and any full-time student of a college or university of this state. Nonresident students of West Virginia colleges are not eligible to apply for Lifetime licenses. Absentee ownership of land in West Virginia does not constitute legal residence.

Nonresident - person who does not meet the requirements of a resident.

Resident landowner privileges - apply to West Virginia residents who own land in West Virginia, their resident children and parents, or resident tenants. Resident tenants must permanently live on the land.

Concurrent hunting - hunting of the same and/or other species during a legally prescribed season.

Big Game - black bear, deer, wild turkey and boar.

Hunt - to chase, catch or take wild birds or animals.

Permanently disabled in the lower extremities - a person permanently and totally disabled from the waist down who is unable to ambulate without the full-time use of a walker, two crutches or a wheelchair.

Bow - a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is hand-drawn, hand-held and held at full draw without the aid of any mechanical device. Triggering devices or release aids are legal.

Modified bow - a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow that has been modified to hold the bow at full draw to accommodate a physical impairment of the user.

Public lands - lands owned, leased, licensed to or under the control of the State of West Virginia or the Federal government.

Private lands - lands owned by an individual(s), partnership, heirship, club, organization or company and not qualifying as public land.

Bait - any feed or edible enticement.

Baiting - the direct or indirect placing or exposing of bait so as to attract or entice wildlife to an area where hunters are attempting to take them. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after bait is removed.

Deer Hunting - General Regulations

Resident Deer Hunting License Privileges with -----

Annual Class X and Class XJ, Lifetime Class A-L and AB-L, Class C, Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, Senior Citizen and Underage: entitle a hunter to take one deer during the archery season, one antlered deer during the bucks-only season and one deer during the muzzleloader season.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RG
- To archery hunt an additional deer: Class RB
- To hunt antlerless deer in the antlerless season: Class N
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Resident Deer Hunting License Privileges with -----

Annual Class A and Class Q (must also have a Class CS): entitles the hunter to hunt one antlered deer during the bucks-only season.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RG
- To archery hunt deer: Class U
- To archery hunt additional deer: Class RB
- To muzzleloader hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class V
- To hunt antlerless deer in the antlerless season: Class N
- To hunt on national forest lands: Class I
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Resident Landowner Privileges -----

West Virginia resident landowners may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license. See definition of resident landowner privileges on page 7.

A resident landowner hunting on his/her own land without a license can take the same number of deer as a licensed hunter. *A hunter (licensee or landowner) **cannot** take more than the number of deer allowed in the respective seasons.*

*After killing a deer as a landowner, a person **cannot** take another deer by use of a license for which the privilege has already been used. EXAMPLE - if a landowner has a Class X or A license and kills a deer on his own land during a deer season, the landowner **cannot** use the Class X or A license to kill another deer. He/she can check the deer in as a landowner kill or on the Class X or A license. Either way, the Class X or A privilege has been used for that season.*



Blaze Orange Requirement --

Persons hunting in counties or portions thereof where a deer **firearms** season is presently open shall wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches. This applies to counties with a special youth/Class Q deer hunt. This does not apply to waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land.

Nonresident License Privileges -----

Nonresidents ages 8 thru 14 who have satisfactorily completed a Hunter Education Course may purchase a Class XXJ license and a Class CS/LE license which entitles the holder to take one (1) deer during the archery season, one (1) antlered deer during the bucks-only season, and one (1) deer during the muzzleloader season.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RRG
- to archery hunt additional deer: Class RRB
- to hunt deer in antlerless season: Class NN

All other nonresidents, regardless of age or landowner status, must purchase an annual Class E, and a Class CS/LE license which entitles the holder to hunt one antlered deer during the bucks-only season.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt an additional deer in deer firearm seasons: Class RRG
- to archery hunt deer: Class UU
- to archery hunt additional deer: Class RRB
- to muzzleloader hunt deer in muzzleloader season: Class VV
- to hunt antlerless deer in the antlerless season: Class NN
- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1

Firearms/Bows and Equipment -----

It is illegal to hunt deer with:

- a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball, or a rifle using rimfire ammunition of less than .25 caliber.
- a fully automatic rifle, shotgun or handgun.
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber.
- a muzzleloader of less than .38 caliber during the muzzleloader deer season.
- anything other than a bow or single-shot muzzleloading firearm on Green Bottom WMA.

Hunting Hours and Restrictions -----

After a person has killed his/her legal daily limit of deer, they may not participate further in hunting deer with either a bow or firearm the remainder of the day.

After killing the legal limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting bear.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting -----

Each person killing a deer must, within one hour and before moving the carcass from where it was killed, complete and attach a game field tag. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

The unskinned carcass or the fresh skin and head of each deer, shall be delivered to a conservation officer or an official checking station for checking and retagging:

- 1) before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county of kill,
- 2) within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

All deer killed in Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties shall be checked and retagged at an official game checking station in the four-county area within 24 hours of the time of kill. Deer killed outside these four counties may not be checked within the four-county area.

A hunter may not hunt deer until the day after any previously killed deer has been checked, except for that portion of the antlerless deer season during which two (2) deer may be taken on the same day on private land provided the first deer has been legally checked.

Common Violations -----

Following are the most common violations observed by Conservation Officers during the deer hunting seasons:

Hunting without license
Improper license
Making false application for license
Loaded gun in a vehicle
Failure to field tag deer
Illegal possession of wildlife
Hunting without permission
Exceeding the limits
Shooting at decoy deer

2003 White-Tailed Deer Hunting Seasons

Where permitted, the maximum annual bag limit (excluding special hunts - Urban, Youth and Class Q) is 9 deer: three (3) Archery, one (1) Bucks-Only, three (3) Antlerless, and one (1) Muzzleloader Deer PLUS one (1) Additional Bucks-Only or Antlerless or Muzzleloader Deer on a Class RG/RRG License.

County (See page 12 for Public Land Regulations)	Archery October 18 - December 31	Bucks-Only Firearms November 24 - December 6	Antlerless Nov. 24 - Dec. 6 & Dec. 24-27: <i>Private Land Only</i> December 8-13: <i>Public and Private Land</i>	Muzzleloader December 15 - 20
Barbour Berkeley Braxton Brooke Cabell Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hampshire Hancock Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall	Maximum season bag limit: 3 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Two (2) additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB licenses (one deer per license) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	Maximum season bag limit: 2 The first antlered deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege. Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	Maximum season bag limit: 4 The first antlerless deer must be taken on a Class N or NN license or by a resident landowner. Two (2) additional antlerless deer may be taken on Class N or NN licenses (one deer per license) or by a resident landowner. One (1) additional antlerless deer may be taken by a properly licensed hunter using an unfilled Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege. Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license plus a Class N, NN, RG or RRG license for each deer , except for resident landowners hunting on their own land. Two (2) antlerless deer may be taken on the same day on private land only during the December 8 -13 portion of the Antlerless Season, provided the first antlerless deer taken is checked before pursuing or taking a second antlerless deer.	Maximum season bag limit: 2 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional either sex deer may be taken on an unfilled Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege.
Fayette (<i>North and East of New River and North of Kanawha River</i>) Mercer (<i>East of Route 19</i>) Randolph Raleigh Tucker Webster	Maximum season bag limit: 3 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Two (2) additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB licenses (one deer per license) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	Maximum season bag limit: 2 The first antlered deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege. Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	Maximum season bag limit: 1 One (1) either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.	Maximum season bag limit: 1 One (1) either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.

2003 White-Tailed Deer Hunting Seasons

Where permitted, the maximum annual bag limit (excluding special hunts - Urban, Youth and Class Q) is 9 deer: three (3) Archery, one (1) Bucks-Only, three (3) Antlerless, and one (1) Muzzleloader Deer PLUS one (1) Additional Bucks-Only or Antlerless or Muzzleloader Deer on a Class RG/RRG License.

County (See page 12 for Public Land Regulations)	Archery October 18 - December 31	Bucks-Only Firearms November 24 - December 6	Antlerless Nov. 24 - Dec. 6 & Dec. 24-27: Private Land Only December 8-13: Public and Private Land	Muzzleloader December 15 - 20
Boone	Maximum season bag limit: 3 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. Two (2) additional deer (one must be antlerless) may be taken on Class RB or RRB licenses (one deer per license) or by a resident landowner using those privileges.	Maximum season bag limit: 2 The first antlered deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege. Note concurrent Antlerless Season.	Maximum season bag limit: 1 Limited to West Virginia residents only and prior application for permit is required. One (1) antlerless deer may be taken on a Class N license or by a resident landowner. Requires a valid base license or license combination, or free license and a Class N license except for resident landowners hunting on their own land.	Maximum season bag limit: 1 One (1) either sex deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.
Clay (South of Elk River)	Maximum season bag limit: 2 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional deer of either sex may be taken on a Class RB or RRB license or by a resident landowner using that privilege.	Maximum season bag limit: 2 The first antlered deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional antlered deer may be taken on a Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner using that privilege.	Season Closed	Maximum season bag limit: 1 One (1) antlered deer may be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land.
Fayette (South and West of New River and South of Kanawha River)				
Mercer (West of Route 19)				
Logan	Maximum season bag limit: 2 A first either sex deer must be taken on a valid base license or license combination, free license, underage or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land. One (1) additional deer may be taken on a Class RB or RRB license or by a resident landowner using that privilege. Only one (1) antlered deer may be taken per year.	Season Closed	Season Closed	Season Closed
McDowell				
Mingo				
Wyoming				

2003 White-Tailed Deer Hunting Seasons

Where permitted, the maximum annual bag limit (excluding special hunts - Urban, Youth and Class Q) is 9 deer: three (3) Archery, one (1) Bucks-Only, three (3) Antlerless, and one (1) Muzzleloader Deer PLUS one (1) Additional Bucks-Only or Antlerless or Muzzleloader Deer on a Class RG/RRG License.

Wildlife Management Areas and Other Public Lands		Special Regulations
Hughes River WMA Springfield WMA		All regulations, including the Antlerless Deer Season length and bag limit, are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs are located.
McClintic WMA		All regulations, including the Antlerless Deer Season length and bag limit, are the same as Mason County private land except: all antlered deer taken must have a minimum 14-inch outside spread.
Lewis Wetzel WMA		All regulations are the same as Wetzel County private land except: the Antlerless Season bag limit is one (1) deer. The Muzzleloader Season bag limit is one (1) either sex deer.
Amherst/Plymouth WMA Beech Fork WMA Big Ugly WMA Bluestone WMA Burnsville Lake WMA Chief Cornstalk WMA	Cross Creek WMA East Lynn Lake WMA Elk River WMA Fork Creek WMA Stonewall WMA Stonewall Jackson WMA	All regulations are the same as private land in the respective county where the WMAs are located except: the Antlerless Season is limited to West Virginia residents and is only six (6) days, December 8 - 13. Prior application is required, and the season bag limit is one (1). The Muzzleloader Season bag limit is one (1) either sex deer.
Hillcrest WMA		All regulations are the same as private land in Hancock County except: Bucks-Only gun season is closed. This is a Special Muzzleloader Bucks-Only deer season area from November 24 - December 6. All Muzzleloader Season license requirements apply and season bag limit is one (1). The Antlerless Season is limited to West Virginia residents and is only six (6) days, December 8 - 13. Prior application is required and the season bag limit is one (1).
Wilson Cove Deer Study Area		All regulations are the same as private land in Hardy County except: Bucks-Only gun Season is closed. This is a Special Muzzleloader Bucks-Only deer season area from November 24 - December 6. All Muzzleloader Season license requirements and bag limits apply. The Antlerless Season is only six (6) days, December 8 - 13.
Wallback WMA Morris Creek WMA		All regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs are located except: the Archery Season bag limit is two (2) . The Antlerless Season is closed. The Muzzleloader Season bag limit is one (1) antlered deer.
Pocahontas County Public Lands Pendleton County Public Lands		All regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the public land is located except: the Antlerless Season is only six (6) days, December 8 - 13, and the season bag limit is one (1). The Muzzleloader Season bag limit is one (1) either sex deer.
All other WMAs and other Public Lands		All regulations are the same as private land in the respective counties where the WMAs and public lands are located except: the Antlerless Season is only six (6) days, December 8 - 13.

Deer - Archery Hunting

Daily Bag Limit: 1 Opening Date: October 18 Closing Date: December 31

Three deer may be taken with a bow during the archery season -- the first deer must be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+U, or Classes Q+CS+U); or nonresident (Classes XXJ+CS/LE or Classes E+CS/LE+UU); or a free license: Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW, or Senior Citizen. Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take a first archery deer without a license. Two (2) additional deer may also be taken with Class RB or Class RRB licenses (one per license) or by resident landowners hunting on their own property. One of the deer taken on a Class RB or RRB license must be an antlerless deer.

Deer of either sex may be hunted statewide with a bow during the archery season. A bow may be substituted for a firearm during any deer firearms season except muzzleloader season.

It is illegal:

- to be afield with both gun and bow, or with a gun and any arrows, except that persons who have a concealed weapons permit may carry a concealed handgun for self defense only.
- to hunt with a crossbow and/or have a crossbow afield.
- to hunt deer with arrows having less than two sharp cutting edges, measuring less than 3/4 of an inch in width.
- to use a bow-locking device, except with a modified bow permit issued by the Director.
- to use an arrow with an explosive, drug-laced or poisoned head or shaft.

Special Urban Deer Archery Season

A special archery deer hunting season is available between October 4 - December 31, 2003 to incorporated cities, towns, villages and homeowner associations. To implement the hunt, homeowner associations must submit a written request to the Director by March 1 of the hunt year. During this special season two (2) deer may be taken which shall not apply to the regular archery season bag limit. For information regarding this special archery deer hunt contact your local municipal government, homeowner association or the appropriate DNR office.

Additional Deer Archery Licenses - Class RB and Class RRB -----

During a calendar year a resident may purchase only **two** (2) Class RB licenses and a nonresident may purchase only **two** (2) Class RRB licenses. The Class RB or Class RRB archery licenses must be purchased before October 18, 2003, prior to the opening of archery season.

Only **one** (1) deer may be taken with each Class RB or RRB license. Hunting on the Class RB or Class RRB licenses can begin on the day after legally checking the first deer. Class RB or RRB licenses cannot be used for taking deer with a firearm.

Two (2) additional deer may be taken with Class RB or Class RRB licenses or by a landowner during the archery season. One (1) Class RB or Class RRB license must be used to take an antlerless deer.

There is an annual limit of two (2) archery deer, one of which must be antlerless, for the four-county area of Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties. One (1) Class RB or RRB license is valid in these counties.

To take additional archery deer, all residents except resident landowners (see page 7) while hunting on their land are required to purchase Class RB licenses. All nonresidents are required to purchase Class RRB archery licenses to take additional archery deer. (See license requirements on pages 8 and 9.)

Concurrent Hunting During Deer Archery Season-----

A bow hunter may take small game at any time the small game season is open, except the first three days of bucks-only season.

Archery hunting is legal during muzzleloader deer season but must be done under archery deer hunting regulations.

Archery hunters must wear a blaze orange outer garment of at least 400 square inches during any deer firearms seasons.

Special Buck Harvest Restriction on McClintic WMA -----

All antlered deer taken during archery season on McClintic WMA must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).

Deer - Bucks-Only Hunting

Daily Bag Limit: 1

Opening Date: November 24

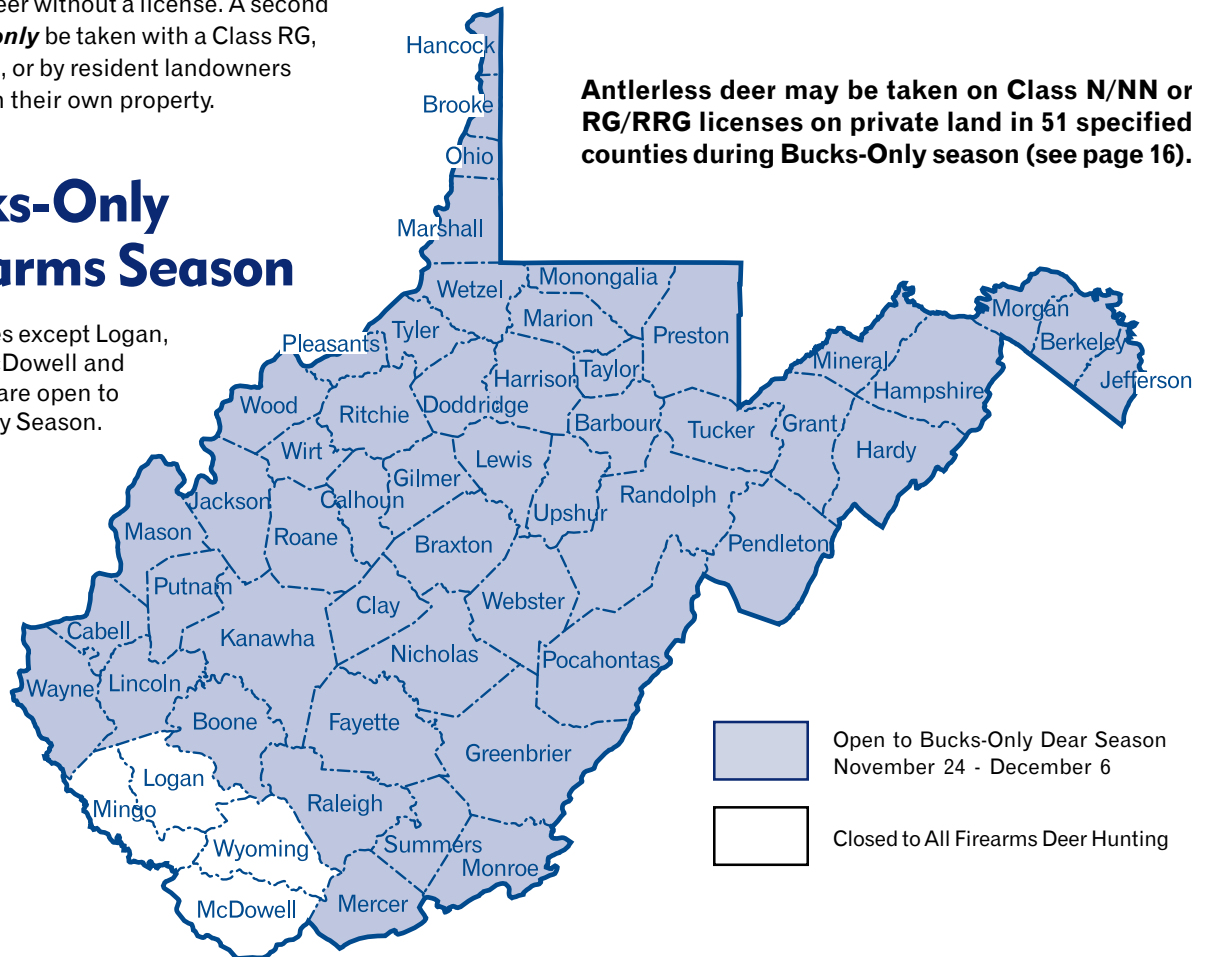
Closing Date: December 6

Only deer having one or both antlers 3 inches or more in length above the hairline are legal during the bucks-only season (see concurrent hunting during bucks-only season for antlerless deer on page 15).

Two (2) deer may be taken with a gun or bow during the bucks-only season -- the first deer must be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS, or Classes Q+CS); or nonresident (Classes XXJ+CS/LE or Classes E+CS/LE); or free license: Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen. Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take a first antlered deer without a license. A second deer may **only** be taken with a Class RG, Class RRG, or by resident landowners hunting on their own property.

Bucks-Only Firearms Season

All counties except Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming are open to Bucks-Only Season.



Legal firearms for hunting deer during the bucks-only season shall include:

- a rifle using center-fire ammunition
- a rifle using .25 caliber or larger rimfire ammunition
- a muzzleloading rifle with or without scope and muzzleloading pistol of .38 caliber or larger
- a handgun using a straight-walled case of .357 magnum cartridge or larger or a bottle-necked case of .24 caliber or larger. A Class A-1 handgun license is required
- a shotgun loaded with solid ball ammunition

Antlerless deer may be taken on Class N/NN or RG/RRG licenses on private land in 51 specified counties during Bucks-Only season (see page 16).

Special Buck Harvest Restriction on McClintic WMA -----

All antlered deer taken during bucks-only firearm season on McClintic WMA must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).

Special Muzzleloader Buck Season

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest and the **Hillcrest WMA**, located in Hancock County will have a bucks-only muzzleloader season November 24 through December 6. Only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines", of .38 caliber or larger are legal. **These two (2) areas will not be open to the traditional rifle bucks-only firearms season.** All muzzleloader **license** requirements apply. (See pages 12 and 20.)

Concurrent Hunting During Bucks-Only Deer Season -----

*Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land and Lewis Wetzel, McClintic, Springfield and Hughes River WMAs during the bucks-only season (November 24 thru December 6), in 51 counties or portions thereof. To hunt antlerless deer during the bucks-only season, a valid Class N or NN license (antlerless permit) is required for all hunters, regardless of age, except for resident landowners (see page 7) hunting on their own land. Hunters may take **only one (1) deer per day**, therefore, a buck and an antlerless deer may not be taken on the same day.*

All hunting, except for deer, is prohibited during the first three (3) days of bucks-only season in all counties having a bucks-only season; provided, that hunting for waterfowl is legal on lakes, rivers, and waterways during the open waterfowl season, and hunting for bear is legal in specified counties. Small game hunting is legal beginning November 27, 2003. While hunting small game during the bucks-only season, No. 4 shot or smaller and slugs may be carried with a shotgun only if the hunter has an unfilled bucks-only or antlerless season license or is legally hunting bear.

A combination rifle-shotgun (over-under, etc.) is legal for deer hunting and concurrent small game hunting.

After killing the legal limit of deer, a hunter shall not be afield with any firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot unless legally hunting bear.

It is illegal to hunt small game during the bucks-only deer season with any centerfire rifle, with any rimfire rifle larger than .22 caliber, or with a shotgun using solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 in a county that is not open to bucks-only deer hunting.

Archery hunting for deer is legal during bucks-only season. A bow may be substituted for a firearm to take antlered deer, or if hunting on a Class N or NN license, antlerless deer may be taken during the bucks-only season on private land in specified counties (see pages 10-12).

All persons hunting during a deer firearms season, except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Additional Deer Gun Licenses: Class RG and Class RRG -----

During a calendar year a resident may purchase only **one (1)** Class RG license and a nonresident may purchase only **one (1)** Class RRG license.

Only **one (1)** deer may be taken with a Class RG or Class RRG license. The Class RG and Class RRG licenses must be purchased before November 24, 2003, prior to the opening of bucks-only season. The Class RG and Class RRG licenses are valid for buck hunting in all counties open to bucks-only season.

To take an additional deer, all residents except resident landowners (see page 7) while hunting on their own land are required to purchase a Class RG gun license. All nonresidents are required to purchase a Class RRG gun license if they choose to take an additional deer. (See license requirements on pages 8 and 9.)

During the bucks-only season, hunting on the Class RG or Class RRG gun licenses can begin on the day after legally checking the first antlered deer. If used for antlerless deer, **the first deer must have been an antlerless deer checked by using a valid Class N or NN license or as a landowner.**

A Class RG or Class RRG gun license not used in the bucks-only season is valid to take an *additional* deer in the antlerless (Class N) or muzzleloader seasons in specified counties. (See antlerless and muzzleloader sections).



ATV use is prohibited on all Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests and National Forests in West Virginia.

Deer - Antlerless Hunting

Counties or Parts Thereof Open to Unlimited Resident Class N, Nonresident Class NN, Two (2) Additional Class N/NN and RG/RRG (Daily Bag Limit: 1*) November 24 - December 6 and December 24 - 27 (Private land only**) December 8 - 13 (Private and public land)	Counties or Parts Thereof and Wildlife Management Areas Open to Unlimited Resident Class N and Nonresident Class NN (Season Bag Limit: 1) November 24 - December 6 and December 24 - 27 (Private land only) December 8 - 13 (Private and public land)	Counties or Parts Thereof and Wildlife Management Areas and Number of Limited Resident Permits Available for Antlerless Season (Season Bag Limit: 1)	
		November 24 - December 6 and December 24 - 27 (Private land only)	Wildlife Management Areas December 8 - 13
Barbour Berkeley Braxton Brooke Cabell Calhoun Doddridge Gilmer Grant Greenbrier Hampshire Hancock Hardy Harrison Jackson Jefferson Kanawha Lewis Lincoln Marion Marshall	Fayette (North and East of New River, and North of Kanawha River) Mercer (East of Route 19) Pendleton (public land) Pocahontas (public land) Raleigh Randolph Tucker Webster	Boone Clay (Private land only North of Elk River) Nicholas 1500 481 636	Amherst/Plymouth WMA (Putnam County) 100 Beech Fork WMA (Wayne County) 100 Big Ugly WMA (Lincoln County) 100 Bluestone WMA (Summers/Mercer/Monroe Counties) 300 Burnsville WMA (Braxton County) 250 Chief Cornstalk WMA (Mason County) 200 Cross Creek WMA (Brooke County) 50 East Lynn Lake WMA (Wayne County) 100 Elk River WMA (Braxton County) 150 Fork Creek WMA (Boone County) 100 Hillcrest WMA (Hancock County) 50 Stonecoal WMA (Lewis/Upshur Counties) 100 Stonewall WMA (Lewis County) 500
An antlerless deer is any deer having no antlers or having both antlers less than 3 inches long above the hairline. * A maximum of four (4) antlerless deer may be taken (one per day, except that two antlerless deer may be taken on the same day, December 8 - 13, 2003, on private land only, provided that the first deer is legally checked prior to hunting a second deer). Three deer may be taken with Class N/NN licenses. One deer may also be taken with an unfilled Class RG or Class RRG gun license in a county open for its use in the antlerless season. See pages 9-12. **Includes Lewis Wetzel, Springfield, McClintic and Hughes River WMAs, however the season bag limit for Lewis Wetzel is one (1) deer.			

In all instances the first deer taken during the antlerless deer season or the portion of the antlerless deer season concurrent with bucks-only season must be taken on a Class N or NN license or as a landowner.

All West Virginia residents, regardless of age, must purchase a Class N license to hunt during the antlerless season with the following exceptions:

- Resident landowners (see page 7) may hunt antlerless deer on their land without a license provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.
- Resident landowners, their resident children or resident parents do not have to live on the property. However, a resident tenant must permanently live on the land.
- Resident stockholders of resident corporations formed for the primary purpose of hunting or fishing who own no less than 1,000 acres may hunt antlerless deer on their own land, provided the land is in a county or part thereof open to antlerless deer hunting.

All non-residents, military personnel, senior citizens, Class Q, disabled veterans, former POWs and *underage* hunters must purchase a Class N or NN license to hunt antlerless deer.


Class N or NN licenses may be purchased at any license agent, county clerk's office, the DNR Offices in Charleston and Elkins, or on the DNR website.

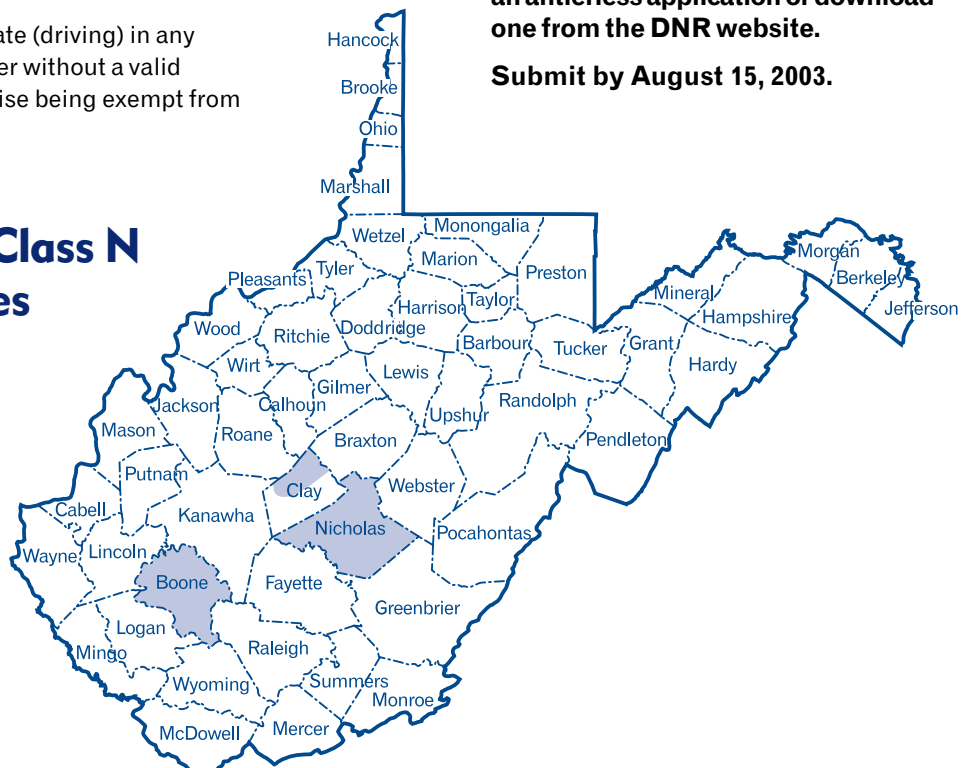
Class N or NN licenses are county specific and nontransferable.

Only one antlerless deer may be taken on each Class N or NN license.

No person may actively participate (driving) in any manner in hunting antlerless deer without a valid Class N or NN license or otherwise being exempt from having a Class N license.

Limited Resident Class N Antlerless Counties

 Counties open to limited licenses for resident Class N Antlerless Hunting



Limited Resident Antlerless Deer Hunting -----

Three (3) counties or parts thereof and thirteen (13) wildlife management areas (WMAs) have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident antlerless deer hunting. To be eligible to hunt in one of these counties or wildlife management areas an application must be submitted by August 15, 2003. Successful applicants will receive notification from the DNR by mail. Resident landowners (see page 7) may hunt on their own land in these counties or parts thereof without a permit. See page 16.

In limited resident antlerless counties or parts thereof and limited resident antlerless WMAs, a hunter may take only one deer in the antlerless season.

Unlimited Resident and Nonresident Antlerless Deer Hunting -----

Forty-eight (48) counties or parts thereof have an unlimited number of Class N/NN licenses for resident and nonresident antlerless deer hunting. No application is necessary for these counties. (See page 12 for antlerless regulations on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands.)

To apply, ask your license agent for an antlerless application or download one from the DNR website.

Submit by August 15, 2003.

Counties with a Bag Limit of Three (3) Class N or NN Deer and Counties for Use of Unfilled Class RG and RRG Licenses in Antlerless Season -----

There are forty-two (42) counties or parts thereof where a hunter can take additional antlerless deer during the antlerless season by purchasing additional Class N or NN licenses (see page 16).

Also, unfilled Class RG and RRG gun licenses may be used to take an additional antlerless deer during the Class N season in 42 specified counties or parts thereof (see page 16).

Deer hunting on the Class RG or RRG or the second (or third) Class N or NN license during the November 24 -

December 6, 2003 and December 24 -27, 2003 portions of the antlerless season can begin on the day after legally checking the first, second or third antlerless deer on a Class N or NN license or as a resident landowner (see page 7). Two (2) antlerless deer may be taken on the same day during December 8 - 13, 2003, on private land only, provided the first deer is legally checked prior to hunting a second deer.

See page 12 for antlerless regulations on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands.



Concurrent Hunting During the Antlerless Deer Season --

During antlerless season (December 8 - 13, 2003 and December 24 - 27, 2003) concurrent hunting for small game and bear (where the season is open) is legal, however, no hunter except those legally hunting antlerless deer or bear shall be afield with a firearm with solid ball ammunition or shot shells containing larger than No. 4 shot.

Concurrent archery hunting is legal during the antlerless season subject to all archery deer hunting regulations. All persons hunting during deer firearms seasons (except those engaged in farming activities on their own land and waterfowl hunters) must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting (See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations) is legal.

West Virginia's Celebration of 2003 National Hunting & Fishing Days

Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park
September 27 - 28 • 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- Over 100 vendors and exhibitors showcasing outdoor-related equipment
- Nationally recognized wildlife artists and craftsmen
- Seminars on coyote calling, bass fishing, and West Virginia snakes
- Governor's Outdoor Youth Sports Challenge
- Try sporting clays, muzzleloaders, and flyfishing
- Taste expertly cooked wild game and fish
- Learn to shoot a bow, try out the 3-D archery...



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more!!!

\$2.00
per person

For more information contact:
Marshall Snedegar at (304) 558-2771

Special Split Youth and Class Q Deer Season

November 1 and December 22 - 23, 2003: Antlerless Deer Only

A special split deer season for youth and Class Q hunters will be held *on private land* in counties or parts thereof open to antlerless (Class N) deer hunting and on 29 specified Wildlife Management Areas which are listed below. Only one antlerless deer may be taken per day.

To participate hunters must:

- be at least 10 and no more than 14 years of age on the day of the season,

and

- be accompanied by a licensed adult, at least 21 years of age, who must also wear 400 square inches of blaze orange, cannot carry a gun or a bow and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance,

or

- possess valid Class Q and CS licenses.

The bag limit of one (1) antlerless deer per day will *not* count towards the hunter's annual deer season bag limit. A class N license is *not* required. Each deer taken must be field tagged (see page 8) and checked at an official game checking station within 24 hours of the close of each portion of this special split season.

Youth and Class Q hunt participants and all other hunters hunting on private land or on any of the specified WMAs on the day of the special youth and Class Q deer hunt, with the exception of waterfowl hunters and persons engaged in farming activities on their own land, must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment. ***All nonresident participants must possess Class XXJ (or Class E for accompanying adult) and Class CS/LE licenses.***

Wildlife Management Areas Open for a Special Split Youth and Class Q Deer Season ----

1. Allegheny (Mineral County)
2. Amherst/Plymouth (Putnam County)
3. Becky Creek (Randolph County)
4. Beech Fork (Cabell and Wayne counties)
5. Beury Mountain (Fayette County)
6. Bluestone (Summers, Mercer and Monroe counties)
7. Big Ugly (Lincoln County)
8. Burnsville (Braxton County)
9. Chief Cornstalk (Mason County)
10. Cross Creek (Brooke County)
11. Cranberry (Nicholas, Greenbrier and Webster counties)
12. East Lynn Lake (Wayne County)
13. Frozen Camp (Jackson County)
14. Handley (Pocahontas County)
15. Hughes River (Ritchie and Wirt counties)
16. Jug (Tyler County)
17. Lewis Wetzel (Wetzel County)
18. McClintic (Mason County)
19. Mill Creek (Cabell County)
20. Nathaniel Mountain (Hampshire County)
21. Pruntytown (Taylor County)
22. Shannondale (Jefferson County)
23. Short Mountain (Hampshire County)
24. Sleepy Creek (Berkeley and Morgan counties)
25. Snake Hill (Monongalia County)
26. Springfield (Hampshire and Mineral counties)
27. Stonewall Jackson (Lewis County)
28. Stumptown (Gilmer County)
29. Underwood (Marshall and Wetzel counties)

Youth Squirrel Hunt -----

October 4, 2003

Youth hunters must be no more than 14 years of age and must be accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older. The accompanying adult cannot hunt and must remain near enough to the youth to render advice and assistance.

Deer - Muzzleloader Hunting

Daily Bag Limit: 1 Opening Date: December 15 Closing Date: December 20

Muzzleloader deer hunting for antlered deer is legal in all counties open to bucks-only season. Deer of either sex may be taken with muzzleloaders in all counties or parts thereof open to the Class N season.

In all limited resident antlerless counties or parts thereof and limited resident Wildlife Management Areas a hunter may take only one deer in the muzzleloader season.

In the muzzleloader season, only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines" of .38 caliber or larger are legal. A muzzleloader with telescopic sights is legal. A firearm that has been converted into a muzzleloader by use of a plug, or a double-barreled or swivel-barreled muzzleloader is illegal for deer hunting during the muzzleloader season.

When being transported in or on a vehicle, muzzleloaders will be considered unloaded when uncapped or when the priming charge is removed from the pan.

Two (2) deer may be taken with a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season -- the first deer must be taken on one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+V, or Classes Q+CS+V); or nonresident (Classes E+CS/LE+VV, or Classes XXJ+CS/LE); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take a first muzzleloader deer without a license. A second deer may only be taken in specified counties with an unfilled Class RG or RRG license or by a resident landowner hunting on his/her own land who has not filled their RG privilege.

Use of Unfilled Class RG and Class RRG Licenses in Muzzleloader Season -----

Unfilled Class RG and Class RRG licenses can be used to take an additional deer in the muzzleloader season in forty-two (42) counties or parts thereof (see page 10). See page 12 for muzzleloader regulations on Wildlife Management Areas and other public lands.

Deer hunting in the muzzleloader season on the Class RG or RRG gun license can begin on the day after legally checking the first muzzleloader deer.

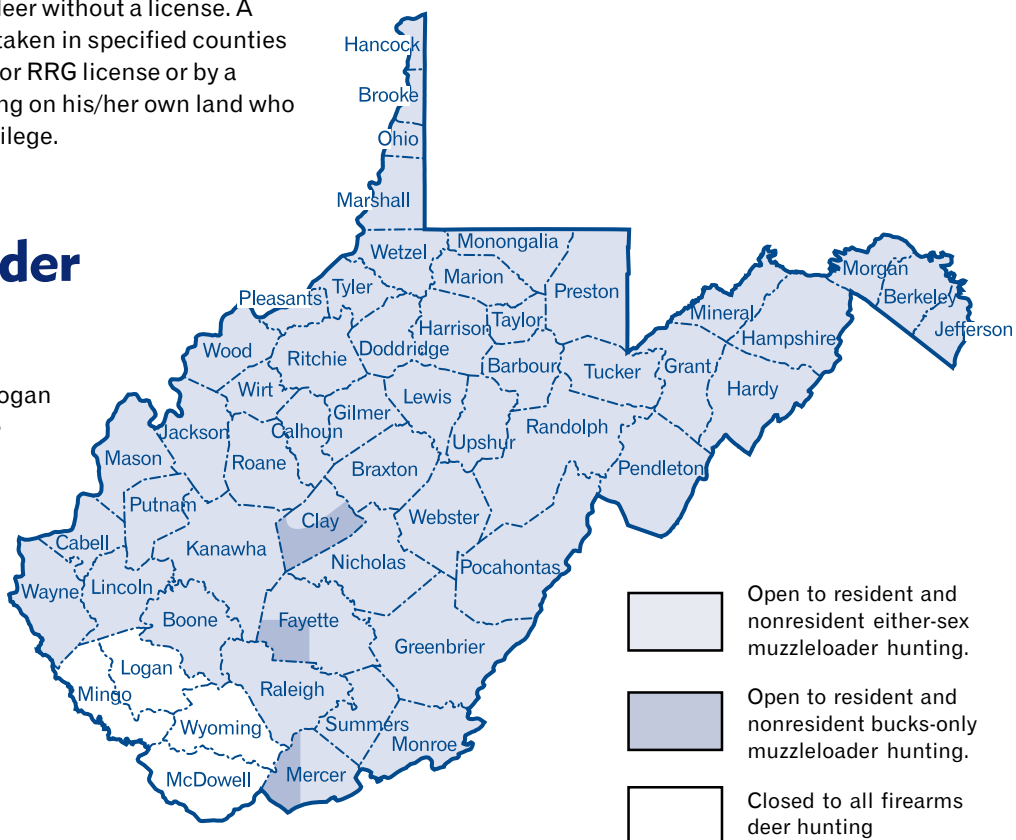
In all instances, the first muzzleloader season deer must be taken on an appropriate license or as a landowner (see page 7) and legally checked before the Class RG or RRG license is legal (see page 10).

Special Buck Harvest Restriction on McClintic WMA -----

All antlered deer taken during bucks-only firearm season on McClintic WMA must have a minimum outside antler spread of 14 inches (ear tip to ear tip).

Muzzleloader Counties

Wyoming, McDowell, Logan and Mingo counties are closed to all firearms deer hunting.



Concurrent Hunting During the Muzzleloader Deer Season -----

A bow cannot be substituted for a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader season. Concurrent archery hunting is legal during the muzzleloader season subject to all archery deer hunting regulations, except archery hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange as an outer garment.

Concurrent hunting is permitted during the muzzleloader season. Except for those persons legally hunting bear, it is illegal to be afield with solid ball ammunition or shot larger than No. 4 during the muzzleloader season.

It is legal to hunt small game with .22 caliber or smaller rimfire during the muzzleloader season.

Concurrent waterfowl hunting (See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations) is legal.

Special Muzzleloader Buck Season

Wilson Cove Deer Study Area located in Hardy County on the George Washington National Forest and the **Hillcrest WMA**, located in Hancock County will have a bucks-only muzzleloader season November 24 - December 6, 2003. Only single shot muzzleloaders, including "in-lines", of .38 caliber or larger are legal. A muzzleloader with telescopic sights is legal. **These two (2) areas will not be open to the traditional rifle bucks-only firearms season.** All muzzleloader *license* requirements apply. (See pages 12 and 20.)

Share Your Harvest

Sunday, November 2, 2003

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources in conjunction with the West Virginia Council of Churches has designated **Sunday, November 2, 2003, as Share the Harvest Sunday**. Hunters are asked to encourage their churches to participate in this extremely worthwhile program. Participating churches ask each church member to donate \$1.00 to support the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program.

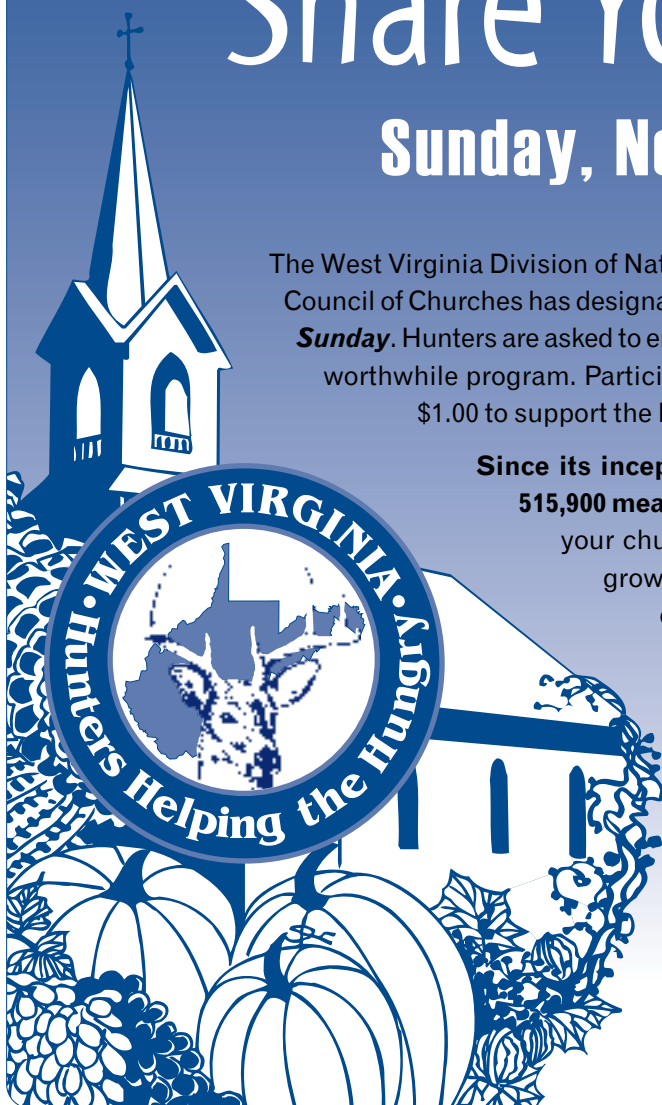
Since its inception in 1992, HHH has provided venison for over 515,900 meals to needy West Virginians. Your support, and that of your church will help keep this beneficial program alive and growing. Hunters may also contribute by paying part or all of their donated deer's processing costs. If hunters do not wish to donate their entire deer to HHH, they may ask their processor to set aside several pounds of ground venison for HHH.

If your church is unable to participate on November 2, a more convenient Sunday may be chosen.

Donations should be mailed to:

**HHH, Mountaineer Food Bank
180 Enterprise Drive
Gassaway, WV 26624**

For additional information on HHH or Share the Harvest Sunday, contact Marshall Snedegar at (304) 558-2771.



Turkey - General Regulations

Resident and Nonresident Turkey Hunting License Privileges -----

Three (3) wild turkey may be taken by hunters who possess one of the following valid base licenses or license combinations: resident (Class X, Class XJ, Class AB-L, Class A-L, Classes A+CS+W, or Classes Q+CS+W); or nonresident (Classes E+CS/LE+WW or Classes XXJ+CS/LE); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may take three turkeys without a license. Two (2) bearded turkeys may be taken in the spring and one (1) of either sex in the fall. However, **no more than one (1)** turkey may be taken in the fall.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- to hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Classes A, Q, and E).
- to hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (Must be age 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners.)

Resident Landowner Privileges:

West Virginia resident landowners (see page 7) may hunt on their own land without obtaining a license.

Resident landowners hunting on their own property without a license can take the same number of turkeys as a licensed hunter. A hunter (licensee or landowner) *cannot* take more than the number of turkeys allowed in the respective seasons.

Reward -----

Reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of person found guilty of:

- illegally killing a turkey -- \$200
- hunting turkey over bait -- \$100
- willfully destroying a turkey nest or eggs -- \$100

Sponsored by: WV Chapter of NWTf

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting -----

Each person killing a turkey must, within one hour and before moving the carcass from where it was killed, complete and attach a game field tag. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

The carcass of each turkey shall be delivered to an official game checking station or a conservation officer for checking and retagging before it is either skinned or transported beyond the boundaries of the county adjacent to that in which the kill was made and within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. The checking tag shall remain on the bird until it is dressed for consumption.

Common Violations -----

Following are the most common violations observed by Conservation Officers during turkey season:

Hunting over bait
Hunting without a license
Improper license
Making false application for license
Exceeding the limits
Loaded gun in vehicle
Failure to field tag turkey
Illegal possession of wildlife
Hunting without permission



Turkey - 2003 Fall Season

Only one (1) turkey of either sex may be taken during the fall hunting season with either a bow or a gun.

It is illegal:

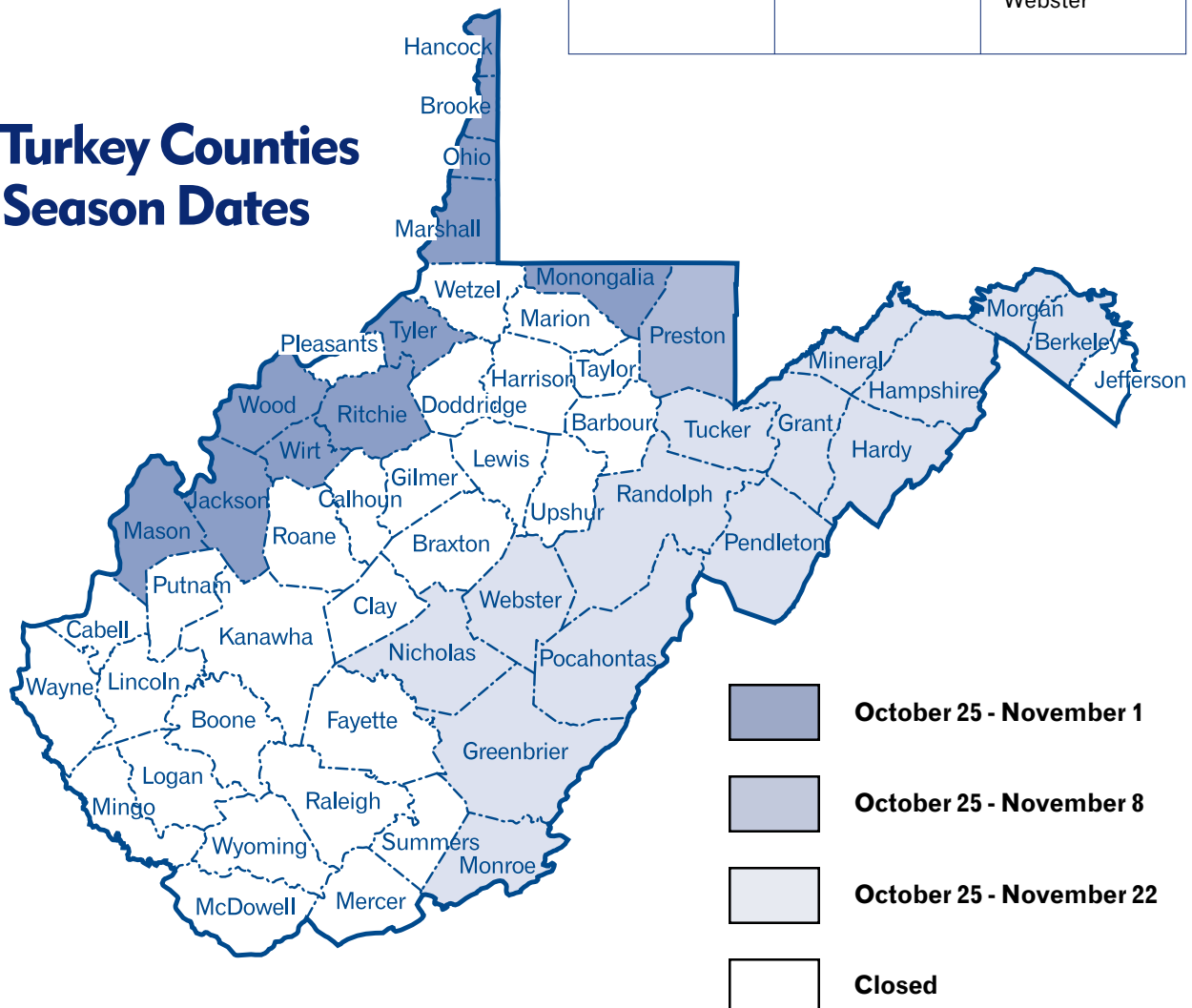
- to use electronic calls.
- to hunt with the use of bait.



Counties and Season Dates

October 25 - November 1	October 25 - November 8	October 25 - November 22
Brooke	Preston	Berkeley
Hancock		Grant
Jackson		Greenbrier
Marshall		Hampshire
Mason		Hardy
Monongalia		Mineral
Ohio		Monroe
Ritchie		Morgan
Tyler		Nicholas
Wirt		Pendleton
Wood		Pocahontas
		Randolph
		Tucker
		Webster

Fall Turkey Counties and Season Dates



Turkey - 2004 Spring Gobbler Hunting

Statewide: April 26 - May 22, 2004

Regulations -----

Shooting hours -- One-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m.

It is illegal to:

- have an uncased firearm or a bow in your possession in the woods after 1 p.m.
- hunt with dogs
- use electronic calls
- hunt with the use of bait

The Division of Natural Resources conducts an annual Spring Gobbler Survey. Spring turkey hunters interested in participating in the survey should contact the following office:

Division of Natural Resources Operations Center

c/o James Pack

P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241

(304) 637-0245 • email: jpack@dnr.state.wv.us

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ONLINE

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Bear - General Regulations

Season Limit: 1

Resident and Nonresident Bear Hunting License Privileges -----

To hunt black bear, hunters must possess one of the following valid license combinations: resident (Classes X+DS, Classes XJ+DS, Classes AB-L+DS, Classes A-L+DS, Classes A+CS+DS or Classes Q+CS+DS); or nonresident (Classes EE+DS+CS/LE); or a free license (Military, Disabled Veteran, former POW or Senior Citizen). Underage residents and resident landowners (see page 7) may hunt bear without a license.

Additional licenses must be purchased:

- To hunt on national forest lands: Class I (required for Classes A, Q and EE)
- To hunt with a handgun: Class A-1 (must be 21 or older, required for all hunters except resident landowners)

It is illegal to:

- hunt bears with the use of bait.
- feed bears.
- hunt a bear with
 - (a) a shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball,
 - (b) a rifle of less than .25 caliber using rimfire ammunition
 - (c) a pistol or revolver using a straight-walled case of less than .357 magnum cartridge or a bottle-necked case of less than .24 caliber or
 - (d) a muzzleloading pistol of less than .38 caliber.
- hunt bear between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise.
- kill or attempt to kill any bear through the use of poison, explosives, snares, steel traps or deadfalls.
- shoot at or kill a cub bear weighing less than 100 pounds or to kill any bear accompanied by such cub.
- pursue a bear, after the chase has begun, with dogs not in use at the beginning of the hunt.
- kill more than one bear per year.
- organize for commercial purposes, or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt.
- for nonresidents to hunt bear with dogs, except in certain designated counties during the bear gun season.

Field Tagging, Checking and Transporting -----

Each person killing a bear must, within one hour and before moving the carcass from where it was killed, complete and attach a game field tag. This tag must bear the hunter's name, address, hunting license number (if required) and the date, time and county of kill. The field tag must remain on the carcass until it is dressed for consumption.

A person killing a bear must, within 24 hours after the kill, transport the bear or its fresh skin to a conservation officer or an official game checking station for retagging. A checking tag must be affixed to the bear before any part of it may be transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill, and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted.



Penalties For Chapter 20 Bear Law Violations -----

These penalties are not subject to suspension by the court.

1st Offense

\$1,000 to \$5,000 fine or 30 to 100 days in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for two years.

2nd Offense

\$2,000 to \$7,000 fine or 30 days to one year in jail, or both. Also includes suspension of hunting and fishing licenses for life.

3rd Offense

FELONY -- \$5,000 to \$10,000 fine or 1 to 5 years in prison, or both.

Bear - Archery Season

Opening Date: October 18

Closing Date: November 22

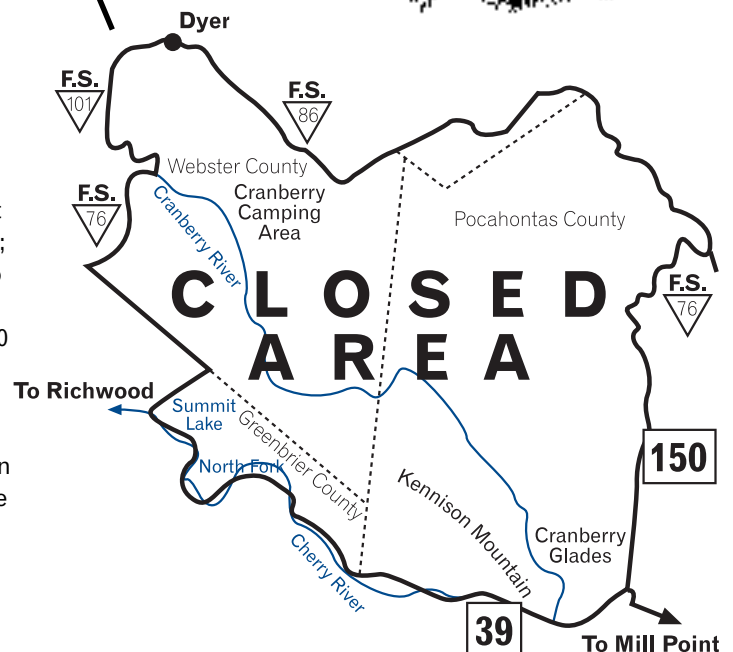


The use of dogs while bow hunting for black bear is illegal during the bear archery season.



Cranberry Closed Area -----

The Cranberry Closed Area is bounded as follows: Starting at Dyer on Forest Service Route 86, the boundary proceeds along Forest Service Route 86 east to Forest Service Route 76 (The Black Mountain Road); the boundary follows Forest Service Route 76 south to the intersection with the Highland Scenic Highway (State Route 150); the line then follows State Route 150 to State Route 39. The southern boundary of the Closed Area follows State Route 39 to the Nicholas County line; then proceeds north following the Nicholas County line to Forest Service Route 76, it then follows Forest Service Route 76 north to Forest Service Route 101. The boundary then follows Forest Service Route 101 north to Dyer.



Bear - Gun Season

Season Limit: 1

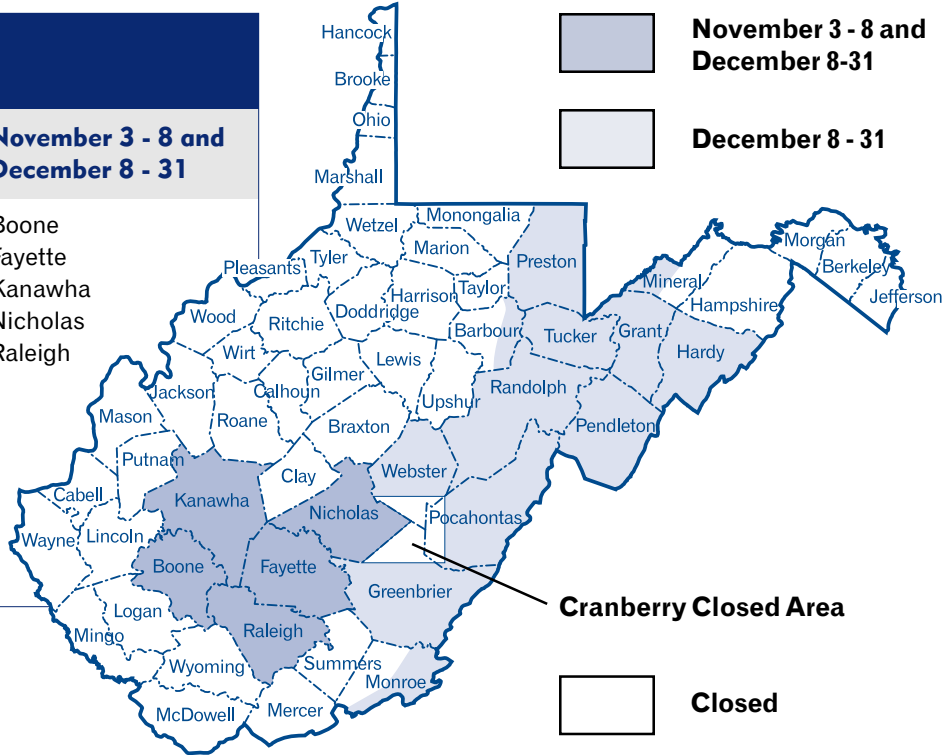
Can Use Dogs

December 8 - 31

Barbour (*East of Route 92*)
Grant
Greenbrier
Hardy
Mineral (*West of New Creek*)
Monroe (*East of Route 219*)
Pendleton
Pocahontas
Preston
Randolph
Tucker
Webster

**November 3 - 8 and
December 8 - 31**

Boone
Fayette
Kanawha
Nicholas
Raleigh



**A bow may be substituted for a firearm during
bear firearms season.**

Cannot Use Dogs

November 24 - 29

Boone
Fayette
Kanawha
Nicholas
Raleigh

December 8 - 13

Barbour (*West of Route 92*)
Braxton
Clay
Hampshire (*South of Route 50*)
Lewis
Lincoln
Logan
Marion
McDowell
Mercer
Mingo
Mineral (*East of New Creek*)
Monongalia
Monroe (*West of Route 219*)
Summers
Upshur
Wayne
Wyoming



Bear - Dog Training Regulations

Dog Training Regulations ----

The same licenses required for bear hunting are required for the training of dogs on bear.

Training for nonresidents may begin October 11, 2003 and continue throughout small game season, ending February 28, 2004.

- *It is unlawful* for a person to permit a dog owned by him or under his control to chase, pursue or follow upon the track of any deer or wild turkey.
- Dogs may be trained on bears on private land with the landowner's written permission, or on public lands, at any time.
- Persons training dogs may not have firearms or other implements for the taking of wildlife in their possession during closed seasons on wild animals and birds.

Attention Bear Hunters -----

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently studying factors related to the productivity and mortality of black bears in West Virginia. As part of this research effort, radio collars, ear tags and lip tattoos have been placed on a number of bears. Anyone observing a bear wearing a radio collar or ear tag is asked to report the number of the tag (if obtainable) to the DNR. Hunters that harvest a bear with a radio collar and/or ear tag should return this equipment to the DNR.

Successful bear hunters can contribute to this research effort by allowing a tooth, the size of a kitchen match, to be pulled and submitted to the bear project. This will enable wildlife biologists to determine the bear's age. After processing the tooth, the DNR will provide you with the age of the animal.

A tagged bear may have been tranquilized.

Please contact the District Wildlife Biologist prior to consumption of meat.

Bear Reproductive Tract Collection -----

WV Wildlife biologists are continuing to collect female bear reproductive tracts. Information from these tracts, as well as a premolar tooth from each bear will reveal such data as breeding ages of females, number of cubs produced, age structure of female population and reproductive success. Please help us obtain as much information as possible by following the outlined procedures. You may call any District DNR office or the Elkins Operations Center for assistance.

Fairmont: (304) 367-2720

Parkersburg: (304) 420-4550

Pt. Pleasant: (304) 675-0871

French Creek: (304) 924-6211

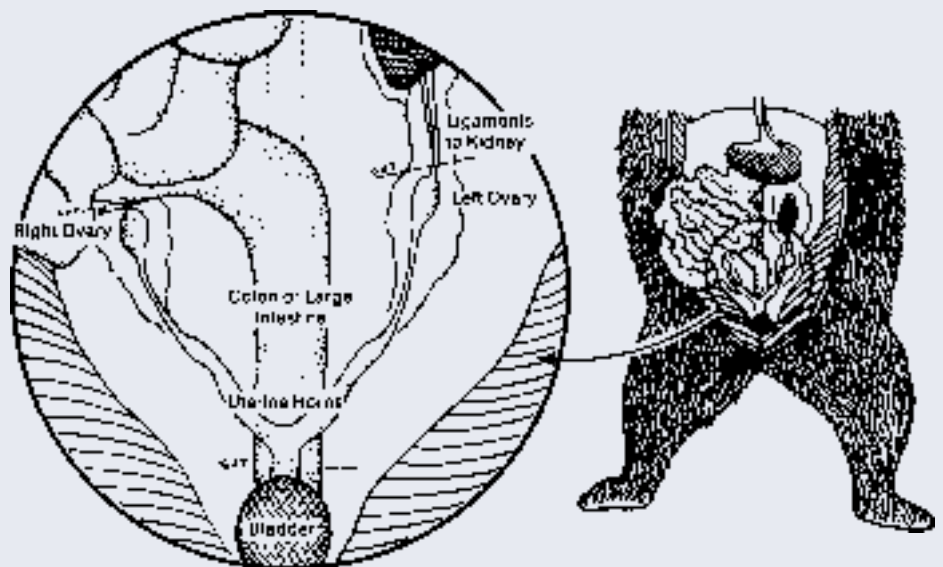
Romney: (304) 822-3551

Beckley: (304) 256-6947

**Elkins Operations Center:
(304) 637-0245**

Procedures

1. Open bear abdominal cavity.
2. Move intestines aside.
3. Locate bladder.
4. Note uterus under bladder, over large intestine.
5. Remove uterus and ovaries by cutting as close to vulva as possible and above ovaries.
Be certain to get both ovaries which are each about the size of an acorn. They may be buried in large amounts of fat.
6. Put in plastic bag and place in cool location (in refrigerator if available), and notify DNR personnel.
7. If scales are available, weigh the bear.



Wild Boar - Archery and Gun Season

Season Limit: 1

Residents only - no application required

Archery Season: October 18 - December 31

Gun Season: October 27 - November 1

Wild boar may be taken during the firearms wild boar season with a bow or with a firearm using ammunition legal in West Virginia for taking deer (see page 9).

A field tag must be completed and attached to the animal within one hour, or in any case prior to its removal from the site where it was killed.

All boar killed must be taken to an official game checking station or a conservation officer in the county of kill within 24 hours for retagging.

Use of dogs and/or bait is prohibited.

Shooting hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

Concurrent hunting of small game, using a shotgun or a bow, is permitted during wild boar seasons. Concurrent hunting of deer and bear, in counties where legal, is permitted during boar seasons.

Only one (1) Class P stamp is needed for firearms and archery seasons. Any West Virginia Lifetime hunting license holder may purchase a Class P boar hunting license. A Class P license must be accompanied by a Class A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, Q, or free license to hunt boar.

Counties Open to Wild Boar Season

Boone • Logan • Raleigh • Wyoming



National Forest Offices

Monongahela National Forest

Elkins, West Virginia (304) 636-1800

George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

Roanoke, Virginia (540) 265-5100

Division of Natural Resources Operations Center

Elkins, WV (304) 637-0245

National Wildlife Refuges

Rules and regulations governing hunting can be obtained from:

Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 1811 • Parkersburg, WV 26102 (304) 422-0752

Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge

HC 70, Box 200 • Davis, WV 26260 (304) 866-3858

Email: fw5rw_cvnwr@fws.gov

Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

This publication is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing hunting and trapping in West Virginia. The West Virginia Code and West Virginia Code of State Rules contain the details of these laws and regulations and are available for review in the Director's Office and at all DNR Offices. Copies of the official regulations may be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State. All seasons, unless otherwise noted, are statewide and subject to change. Opening and closing dates are inclusive and time periods are prevailing time except as otherwise noted.

License Fees for 2003 - 2004 Hunting Season

Resident Licenses -----

Conservation Stamp (Class CS) - Required for all licensed hunters and anglers except holders of Class X, XJ, A-L, B-L and AB-L licenses	\$3
Hunting and Trapping License (Class A)	\$11
Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class X). For ages 18 through 64. Includes privileges of Conservation Stamp, National Forest stamp and Class U, Class V, and Class W licenses	\$25
Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing License (Class XJ). Similar to Class X, but for ages 15-17	\$15
Antlerless Deer Hunting License (Class N). Must be accompanied by a Class A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, Q, or free license	\$8
Wild Boar Hunting License (Class P). Must be accompanied by A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, Q, or free license	\$5
Additional Deer Hunting Stamp (Class R). One (1) or two (2) for archery and one (1) for firearms - sold separately. Must be accompanied by a Class A, A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, Q, or free license	\$10
Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class U). Must be accompanied by a Class A or Q license	\$5
Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class V). Must be accompanied by a Class A or Q license	\$5
Turkey Hunting Stamp (Class W). Must be accompanied by a Class A or Q license	\$5
Fishing (Class B)	\$11

Nonresident Licenses -----

Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE)- Required for all licensed hunters and anglers	\$10
Statewide Hunting License (Class E)	\$100
Statewide Fishing (Class F)	\$30
Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping license (Class XXJ) (Ages 8-14). Must be accompanied by Class CS/LE license	\$15
Bear Hunting License (Class EE)	\$150
Small Game Hunting License (Class H) (Six days)	\$20
Antlerless Deer Hunting License (Class NN) - Must be accompanied by a Class E license	\$25
Additional Deer Stamp (Class RR) - One (1) or two (2) for archery and one (1) for firearms - sold separately. Must be accompanied by a Class E or XXJ license	\$30
Archery Deer Hunting Stamp (Class UU) - Must be accompanied by a Class E license	\$25
Muzzleloader Deer Hunting Stamp (Class VV) - Must be accompanied by a Class E license	\$25
Turkey Hunting Stamp (Class WW) - Must be accompanied by a Class E license	\$25

Residents under age 15

may hunt or trap without a license when accompanied by a licensed adult.

Licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to hunt additional deer: Class RG and/or RB
- to hunt boar: Class P

Lifetime Licenses

Resident lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license; applications are available at Division of Natural Resources offices and all license agents.

Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L)*	\$570
Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Infant (Class AB-L-I)*	\$285
Hunting and Trapping (Class A-L)*	\$425
Hunting and Trapping - Infant (Class A-L-I)*	\$213
Small Arms Hunting (Class A-1-L)*	\$ 75

*Class I, U, V, W Licenses and Conservation Stamp not required with the Class AB-L, A-L, A-L-I and AB-L-I Lifetime Licenses.

Resident and Nonresident Licenses

Bear Stamp (Class DS) - Required to hunt or chase bear. Bear Damage Stamp is to be accompanied by Class A, A-L, AB-L, EE, X, XJ or Q license	\$4
National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class I)- Required on National Forests in addition to a Class A, B, E, F, EE, H, Q, or K license	\$2
West Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (Class MW) Required to hunt migratory waterfowl in addition to Class A, A-L, AB-L, E, H, X, Q, or XJ if age is 16 or older. Federal Waterfowl Stamp required	\$5
Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) Required of all licensed migratory bird hunters	FREE
Small Arms Hunting License (Class A-1) - for ages 21 or older. Must be accompanied by a Class A, A-L, AB-L, P, X, E, EE, H, M, Q, or free license	\$5

Purchasing a License -----

Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At over 400 retail agent locations throughout the state. (\$1.00 issuing fee)
2. At all county clerks offices statewide. (\$0.75 issuing fee)
3. Over the Internet at www.wvhunt.com. (Official DNR website - *No issuing fee.*)
4. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning (304) 558-2758. (*No issuing fee.*)

For additional information please contact the Hunting and Fishing License Unit:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
State Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 624
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

(304) 558-2758 • dpringle@dnr.state.wv.us

Residents 65 years of age or older

must carry a WV driver's license or photo ID card issued by the DMV to hunt, trap or fish.

Additional licenses required:

- to hunt antlerless deer: Class N
- to take additional deer: Class RG and/or RB
- to hunt with a pistol: Class A-1
- to hunt boar: Class P
- Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp
- to hunt waterfowl or migratory birds: free HIP card